

## **FAQ's**

For municipalities to connect, there are two processes can be done parallel: one is the connection process and the second is the grant application process.

The questions below reflect either the connection process or the funding process.

### ***Funding Process Questions***

1. Can towns apply for funding to get reimbursed for fiber build and operational costs after they have made the connection?

Answer: Under the current OPM guidelines past expenditures are not reimbursable but future costs can be applied for.

2. What are the different funding sources available?

- a. RPIP – Regional Performance Incentive Program (for an application through your Regional COG)
  - b. Nutmeg Network Grant (for an individual town application)
  - c. Municipal Reimbursement and Revenue Account
  - d. Towns can ask to use the Town Aid Road fund.
  - e. Towns can apply for Local Capital Improvement Program Funds.
  - f. Small Town Economic Assistance Program

3. If my town needs to purchase new equipment to receive the fiber such as a switch or optic, can they apply for funding to cover this?

Answer: Yes. This is considered a capital expense and can be included in your grant request and considered for funding.

4. When do Town Resolution documents for the grant applications have to be submitted?

Answer: The Town Resolution document part of the grant applications have been extended to March 31, 2014 for both the Nutmeg Network grant and the Regional Performance Incentive Program grant.

5. Can Municipalities connect to the Nutmeg Network for free?

Answer: No. New legislation was passed in June 2013 that allows Municipalities to apply for grant funding (for a limited time) to support their connection to the Nutmeg Network and ongoing operational costs. The state provides a subsidy that reduces the costs for municipalities, RCOGs and Higher Education institutions to connect to the network. This subsidy is provided through general fund appropriation for the Connecticut Education Network and is subject to

budget revisions.

6. Is my town guaranteed funding?

Answer: No.

7. What estimates do I need for the OPM grant?

Answer: An estimate is needed for the capital expenditure for the fiber build to the backbone and any hardware (routers/switches, optics) and an estimate for the ongoing fiber maintenance. Fiber build estimates must be submitted by February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

8. What is the deadline for the application process to the RPIP grant to connect to the Nutmeg Network?

Answer: December 31<sup>st</sup> 2013 for the Notice of Intent. See the OPM link for more information.

<http://www.ct.gov/opp/cwp/view.asp?A=2985&Q=487924>

9. If I miss the grant deadline, can I still get connected?

Answer: Yes. You can connect to the Nutmeg Network at any time but funding for the costs to connect will be determined as available through the application process in the RPIP or Nutmeg Network grant. Several towns are already connected to the network and have benefited from greater bandwidth at lower costs than their previous provider.

10. Can towns submit a grant on an individual basis in addition to submitting as part of a regional application with their COG?

Answer: OPM's preference is that individual Town's submit an application.

11. Can towns apply for more than one location to connect? If they apply for two or more will the grant application be rejected?

Answer: OPM's short-term priority is to connect a single municipal central administrative office per municipality.

***Connection Process Questions***

12. Does my Town Hall have to be the location of my Nutmeg Network connection?

Answer: No. The connection point is up to the individual municipality.

13. Can municipalities connect to the Nutmeg Network through a PSDN location?

Answer: Yes. Internet traffic is segregated on the PSDN network.

14. What is the minimum bandwidth commitment?

Answer: 10 Mbps

15. What is the maximum bandwidth?

Answer: Every Nutmeg Network connection has the capacity of a 1 Gbps handoff. Additional services that require larger amounts of bandwidth are possible but will require special engineering that would place that capability into the second year of the two year rollout program.

16. How many ports or connections do I need?

Answer: One port; the ports can be logically split utilizing ‘vlans’ to get multiple circuits or uses out of the single port. If you cannot use logical separation, we can provide more connections for an additional cost.

17. What are the deadlines for the connection process to the Nutmeg Network?

Answer: There are no deadlines for submitting a request to CEN to connect to the Nutmeg Network.

[Http://www.nutmegnetwork.uconn.edu/request](http://www.nutmegnetwork.uconn.edu/request)

\*\*Additional information can be found on The Office of Policy and Management Website

<http://www.ct.gov/opp/cwp/view.asp?a=2985&q=487924>